



**1 February 2026**

## **Presentation of Christ in the Temple; Candlemas**



Welcome to  
St Barnabas' in Pound Hill and  
St Nicholas' in Worth.

This sheet details the readings in today's  
services as well as notices for everyone.

### **SERVICES TODAY**

Certain services will still be available  
online (live or recorded)

08:15 Said Eucharist (BCP)	St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Gordon Parry
10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sarah Upchurch
10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher	Fr Michael Boag
12:00 Baptism	St Nicholas'
13:00 Baptism	St Barnabas'
16:00 Candlemas Compline	St Nicholas'

Please try our QR code to  
donate to Worth Parish.  
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smartphone to take you  
straight to a giving page.



### **Payments to the Parish**

If you possibly can, please transfer the money  
by electronic payment to: Parish of Worth  
Poundhill & Maidenbower, sort code 40-18-22,  
account 61223372.

If you need help, call the Office.

Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ, stands gently at a threshold between seasons. It marks the formal close of Christmas, when the warmth of the Nativity and the quiet wonder of the Incarnation begin to give way to a more searching light. Mary and Joseph bring the child Jesus to the Temple, not with celebration or spectacle, but with obedience, humility, and trust. Christ is revealed not only as a baby born in Bethlehem, but as 'a light for revelation' - a light that will both illuminate and challenge the world.

As the candles are blessed and lit, Candlemas reminds us that the daylight does not banish darkness all at once. It grows steadily, patiently. Winter still lingers, yet the days are unmistakably lengthening. Beneath the cold ground, life is stirring. Spring is not yet visible but it is promised.

Candlemas turns our gaze forward. The joy of Christmas does not disappear; it deepens and matures as we begin to sense what is to come; the shadow of the cross. Simeon's prophecy holds both glory and sorrow, joy and cost. In this way, Candlemas quietly prepares the heart for Lent; a season not of despair but of honest reflection, of refreshment and transformation.

As daylight increases and the earth slowly awakens, Candlemas invites us to do the same: to carry Christ's light into the shadows and sorrows of our own lives, trusting that God is already at work, drawing all things toward renewal, hope, and resurrection.

Christ be our Light!

*Fr Michael*

## Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

**Amen**

## Reading *Malachi 3.1-5*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?



For he will be like  
a refiner's fire or a  
launderer's soap.  
Malachi 3:2

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and

silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

## Reading *Hebrews 2.14-18*

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his



Because he himself suffered  
when he was tempted,  
he is able to help  
those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 2:18 NIV

brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## Gospel *Luke 2.22-40*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for



glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed

them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a

great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

### Post Communion

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues 3 Feb	10:30 Healing Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 5 Feb	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sat 7 Feb	15:00 Messy Church	St Barnabas'
Sun 8 Feb	8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas'

### Sunday 8 February 2026

### Second Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1.1-2.3      Romans 8.8-15  
Matthew 6.25-35

**Toddlers Group** meets on Tues 13:00-15:00 and Thurs 9:00-11:00, in St Barnabas' Hall in term time.

### Festivals this week

Tues 3 Feb	Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden 865 (LF)
Wed 4 Feb	Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order 1189 (C)
Fri 6 Feb	The Martyrs of Japan 1597 (C)
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	

### Choral Compline

St Nicholas', 16:00 on **Sun 1 Feb**.

We believe that this is the first time Compline has been sung at St Nicholas' since the choir was formed in the 1960s. Please come and join us for a short service including Plainsong and music by Tallis and Gibbons.

### The Circle

Meets on Wed 4 Feb at St Barnabas' Café.

Graham Beaumont will give a talk on some Anglican churches built since 1950.

Refreshments from 19:00; talk at 19:30.



### Friday Lunches

The next lunches will be on **6 and 20 Feb**.

Please book your place for the 6 Feb with the Office or the Café by **Wed 4 Feb**.

We are still in need of some more cooks, so do let us know if you can help out. Thank you

### The Hangout

Youth Club at St Barnabas' meets Every **Friday** at 19:00 during Term

Come and see, a song and a prayer, followed by pizza and lollies.

In February Messy Church will be on **Sat 7 Feb** and

**Wed 11 Feb**; both 15:00-16:30, at St Barnabas'. Topic: David and Goliath.

Everyone welcome - mums, dads, grandparents, carers - come and have fun!





## Jumble Sale

at St Barnabas', 10:00-11:30 on **Sat 21 Feb** in aid of St Barnabas' Refurbishment Fund. We have nowhere to store items so please do not bring items for sale until the Fri evening 20 Feb between 19:00 and 20:00 or on the Sat morning from 9:00. Anyone willing to help with the sale please sign the list at St Barnabas' or contact Phyl on 07895 052729. Thank you.

The **100 Club** winners for January are:

£100 Viv Tillyer  
£50 Sue Wood  
£25 Trevor Stokes  
£25 Gerald Sandwell

If anyone would like to join please email David Anderson: [stbwarden@worthparish.org](mailto:stbwarden@worthparish.org)



## CONTACTS

### The Rector

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### Worth Parish Office

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HEY! THEY'RE A DAY  
OFF! ISN'T IT SUPPOSED  
TO BE "THREE FRENCH  
HENS"?



[WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG](http://WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG)

THE TURTLE DOVES ARE  
AN OFFERING IN MEMORY  
OF THE PASSOVER.



I DON'T THINK  
THEY HAVE ANY-  
THING TO DO  
WITH THE  
SONG.



PROBABLY JUST AS  
WELL, THAT *WOULD* BE  
(A LOT OF POULTRY!)



LUKE 2:22-32

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